

The Hopping House  
(Daniel Hopping House)  
Hanover Road (County Road 14)  
Borough of Florham Park  
Morris County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-195

HABS  
NO  
14-HANO  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Owner and Occupants: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Greene Rouse

Date of Erection: Probably 1797-98

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Daniel Hopping (1770-1857) owner 1797-1826

Present Condition: Original, well preserved. Modern dormers

Number of Storeys: One and a half over cellar

Materials of Construction

Foundation: Stone masonry

Exterior walls: Timber frame, clapboarded

Interior walls: Lath and plaster on studding

Chimneys: Brick, built into inside of end walls

Roof: Gable, modern asphalt shingled

#### Historical Data:

The identification of this farmhouse as abovestated is a matter of deduction from the evidence provided by a search of title in the County records, reported as follows:

By deed of 17 January 1797, David Young and wife Theodosia, of Hanover Township, Morris County, conveyed to Daniel Hopping (a)

(a) Daniel Hopping, capt. 4th Regt. 2d Bat. Morris County Brigade 1807, a judge of Morris County Court of Common Pleas 1832, d. 15 Nov. 1857 ae. 87-10-0 per grvst, in Hanover Presb. Chyd., having ar. 1st in Dec. 1792, per Hanover Ch. register, Patty (Martha) Stiles who d. 10 Jan. 1826 ae. 54-4-5 per grvst., and he mar. 2d Asenath \_\_\_\_\_ who d. 13 Aug. 1847 ae. 68-70. "He owned the farm and built the old homestead which is still standing" in 1899. He is said to have been a son of Capt. Samuel Hopping of Hanover who removed to Middletown, Mon. Co., N.J. and d. 13 Feb. 1824 in 81st yr. per grvst. in Presb. Chyd. there, having mar. at Hanover 1st. Apr. 1778 Sarah Smith who d. 12 May 1800 in 44th yr. (Inscript. Whippany & Hanover Graveyards copied and publ. 1894. Stillwell's Hist. & Genealog. Misc. Biogr. & Genealog. Hist Morris Co. N.J. 1899, p. 581.)

of same place, for 262 Pounds 18 shillings New Jersey money, a 41.27 acre tract there having a frontage extending southwest from a small bridge for some 698 feet along the northwest side of the "road leading from Hanover Meeting House to Bottle Hill" (now County road no. 14 southwest from Hanover village to Madison), which tract is evidently the one on which the house here considered was very soon afterwards erected by the grantee.

Subsequently, by deed of 14 November 1804, the same Daniel Hopping purchased from George Prosser (b) and wife Margaret, all of Hanover Township, for \$909.50, a tract of 50 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres directly across the road from that acquired as above, having a frontage of 921 feet on the southeast side thereof and extending southeast to Passaic River. It appears from the following evidence that the grantee Hopping erected a house on this tract also and occupied it as his "Mansion House" in 1847, he having sold the tract first acquired and his house thereon to his son Samuel M. Hopping in 1826. Later, in 1847, he devised the second tract to the son.

Thus, by deed of 3 November 1826, Daniel Hopping Esq., of Hanover Township, conveyed to (his son) Samuel M. Hopping of same place, the said 41.27 acre tract, and by will dated 26 January 1847 and proved 25 November 1856 (57?), after providing for his wife Asenath, he devised "to my son Samuel M. Hopping my mansion house and outbuildings and all that tract of land whereon I now reside", consisting of 25 acres fronting on the southeast side of "the highway to Hanover Church" and on Passaic River, with 20 acres "lying in the rear of my said son Samuel M. Hopping's dwelling house and adjoining his farm," also 6 acres of Ridge meadow and 4 acres of Chestnut timber on Trowbridge Mountain. Testator credits himself with having expanded "a considerable sum of money in procuring a Collegiate Education" for his son Ephraim S. Hopping" whom I am pleased to think has wisely improved his opportunities" and accordingly considers further obligation to him unnecessary. To his daughters Ellen Caroline wife of Archibald Shipman and Martha Ann wife of George C. King and formerly widow of William B. Force, he devised, respectively, a 30 acre lot with \$900 and a 25 acre lot fronting on the southeast side of the highway to Hanover Church (being the northern half of his homestead lot acquired in 1804 as abovesaid) with \$900.

Samuel M. Hopping (c) son and devisee of his father's farm

(b) He owned the "Halfway House" tavern in Hanover village and sold it in 1805 to Charles Hopping. Surveyed as NJ-676.

(c) Samuel Hopping, a son of Daniel, was b. 19 Oct. 1796 on the Hopping homestead and following farming as his life work, was made ensign of Co. M. 4th Regt. Morris County, Brigadier 1818, mar. 20 Dec. 1821 Rachel L. Howell. (Biogr. & Genealog. Hist. Morris County, N.J., 1899, II, 581)

and "mansion house" lying across the highway from his own house (here considered), continued in possession of both properties. In his will dated 20 February 1866 and proved 13 March following, after providing for his wife Maria S. and allowing her the use of the "back room and the room above it in the house where I now live," made bequests to his daughters Mary Elizabeth wife of David T. Cook and Harriet wife of William L. Hopping, and to his son Daniel Primrose Hopping. The residue of his estate, real and personal, he devised to his son Augustus Stiles Hopping (d)

The last named residuary devisee died intestate in 1876, leaving heirs his widow Elizabeth A., sons David A., Daniel M. and Walter E., and daughter Estelle Hopping, of whom David A. came into possession of the paternal homestead by quitclaim deeds from his brother and sister. He occupied the place and died there on 12 October 1915 (in which of the two houses does not appear) having by will dated 20 January 1899, in which he describes himself as of Hanover Township, and proved 28 October 1915, devised the use of his estate to his wife Emma S. during her lifetime or widowhood, with power to sell and convey any of his real estate, and afterward the residue to his children equally.

Accordingly, by deed of 28 February 1920, Emma S. Hopping, widow and executrix of David A. Hopping decd., late of borough of Florham Park (e), conveyed to Carnot M. Ward of Whippany, same County, the combined two farms comprising 125 acres, describing it as extending northwest from Passaic River and across Hanover Road and as lying partly in the township of Hanover and partly in the borough of Florham Park.

But the property was seized from Ward by the Sheriff after judgment delivered by the court against him and was sold to Robert E. and Richard W. McEwan by deed of 6 November 1922. These grantees passed it to Robert F. Loree of West Orange Township, Essex County, by their deed of 23 September 1924, reserving a 150 by 300 foot lot on the northwesterly side of the transversing Hanover Road but granting the option to purchase the same "at any time when the house is vacated by Mrs. C. M. Ward". Loree failed to exercise the option and the house and lot were then conveyed by the McEwans to Mary McEwan Wilson of Hanover Township by their deed of 8 January 1925, the house having been vacated.

(d) Augustus Stiles Hopping, b. 15 July 1834, son of Samuel, "was reared on the home farm", d. 10 Aug. 1876, grvst. Hanover Chrd., enlisted in the 15th Co. N.J. Vo. Regt. 1862, mar. 10 Nov. 1863 Elizabeth Ann West of Flushing, L.I. He was a deacon of Hanover Ch. (I bid. 581)

(e) Borough of Florham Park created from Chatham Twp. 1899 which had been created from Hanover and Morris Twps. 1806).

Finally, by deed of 27 September 1929, the said Mrs. Wilson, with her husband William Q. Wilson, conveyed the lot and its house (here considered) to Anita D. Rouse and her husband Robert G. Rouse, of East Orange, N. J., describing the land as having a frontage of 150 feet on the north side of Hanover Road and a depth of 300 feet. Mr. and Mrs. Rouse remain as owners and occupants of this house at the time of our survey in 1936 and at the time of this writing 10 March 1941.

Note:- See NJ-687 and NJ-692 for other Hopping homesteads in this vicinity. The village of Hoppington, centering on the crossing of County Roads No. 14 and 49, later called Columbia and Alton in succession, lost its identity in the incorporation of the present borough of Florham Park in 1899.

Reference:

Search of title in Morris County records by James Hanlon, H.A.B.S. abstractor, reported 4 March 1941.

Lewis D. Cook  
Supervising Historian 10 March 1941

Approved:

Seymour Williams  
SEYMOURS WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.  
District Officer